

Message Text

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CTF 60

USS SARATOGA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, NATO, MILI, NO

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 1975 NATO TOUR FOR NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: OSLO 0350

1. RECENTLY COMPLETED TRIP TO SIXTH FLEET CARRIER, NATO HEAD-
QUARTERS ANN SHAPE, PART OF ONGOING EMBASSY PROGRAM TO INCREASE
UNDERSTANDING OF NATO AMONG INFLUENTIAL NORWEGIAN POLITICAL LEADERS,
WAS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. FROM FEBRUARY 22 TO 28, FIVE LEADING
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SPENT ONE DAY AND TWO NIGHTS ABOARD USS
SARATOGA (CV 60), VISITED BOTH USNATO AND NATO'S INTERNATIONAL
STAFF, RECEIVED BRIEFING AT USEC AND MET WITH SACEUR DURING 1/2 DAY
STOP AT SHAPE. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THIS TRIP HAS CONTRIBUTED
IMPORTANTLY TO NORWEGIAN UNDERSTANDING OF NATO AND ALLIANCE

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DEFENSE EFFORTS AND MADE POSITIVE, PROFOUND IMPRESSION

UPON PARLIAMENTARIANS THEMSELVES.

2. PARTICIPANTS IN THIS UNUSALLY HIGH LEVEL GROUP WERE:
PER HYSING-DAHL, CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE;
RAGNAR CHRISTIANSEN, CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENTARY FINANCE
COMMITTEE; OTTAR LANDFALD, MEMBER OF DEFENSE COMMITTEE;
KJELL MAGNE BONDEVIK, CHURCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE; AND
MRS. KARIN HAFSTAD, TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. TOUR PROGRAM
MADE POSSIBLE BY GRANT FROM USIS OSLO AND US NATO.

3. TOUR COMMENCED WITH SIXTH FLEET CARRIER PORTION AND SPECIAL
CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR US NAVY, SPECIFICALLY TO
ADMIRAL PETERSEN, CAPTAIN DUNN AND THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF
THE USS SARATOGA (CV 60) FOR AN IMPRESSIVE, INFORMATIVE AND
MOST HOSPITABLE STAY. RECOGNITION OF US PREPAREDNESS AND
EFFICIENCY WAS UNANIMOUS AMONG NORWEGIANS. ALTHOUGH THE RE-
MAINDER OF THE TRIP PROVIDED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, IT'S TOUGH TO
TOP "SARA".

4. GROUP CONTINUED TO NATO HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY RECEIVED
EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF NATO'S CURRENT WORK AND PROBLEMS FROM
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
KILLHAM. PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE ALSO MOST APPRECIATIVE OF
MR. KING-HARMAN'S BRIEFING ON DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY.
DR. RANNESTAD FILLED OUT THE SCIENTIFIC/CCMS SIDE OF NATO
ACTIVITIES FOR HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN. THE DAY AT NATO
CONCLUDED WITH A FIRST RATE SESSION HOSTED BY POLITICAL
COUNSELOR PEREZ/DEFENSE COUNSELOR LEGERE AND A COURTESY
CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PANZA. THE NORWEGIANS
WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE FRANKNESS AND INFORMALITY
OF THE PRESENTATIONS AS WELL AS THE COMPETENCE OF THE
OFFICIALS THEY MET. THE DETERMINATION OF ALLIANCE MEMBERS
TO SOLVE THEIR COMMON PROBLEMS THROUGH CONSULTATION AND TO
MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE POSTURE VIS A VIS THE WARSAW
PACT CAME THROUGH CLEARLY.

5. SHAPE WAS NEXT STOP WHERE GROUP RECEIVED SHORT UNCLASS-
IFIED BRIEFING PRIOR TO MOST REWARDING VISIT WITH SACEUR,
GENERAL HAIG. "HUMAN" SIDE OF GENERAL'S PRESENTATION WON
NORWEGIANS OVER COMPLETELY WHILE THE POLITICAL AND DEFENSE
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ISSUES HE COVERED PROVIDED GROUP WITH NEW INSIGHTS INTO
MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS.

6. FINAL SESSION OF TOUR AT USEC WITH CHARGE MR. MYERSEN WAS
EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE AND SOMETHING WE HOPE TO INCLUDE REGULARLY
ON FUTURE TRIPS. FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSEN FOUND
THIS ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING BRIEFINGS ON TOUR.

7. WE CONCLUDE THAT TOUR WAS HIGHLY VALUABLE, UNQUALIFIED
SUCCESS AT A TIME WHEN NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE CONSIDERING
MANY ISSUES CRITICALLY IMPORTANT BOTH TO U.S. AND TO THE ALLIANCE.
FEEDBACK FROM EVERY PARTICIPATING NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN
REINFORCED IMPRESSION OF ESCORT OFFICERS THAT OUR IMPACT ON THIS
SOPHISTICATED AND INFLUENTIAL GROUP WAS UNUSALLY EFFECTIVE.
OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL CONCERNED.
BYRNE

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